THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 21st December 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—" We shall now take up starred questions to be put to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and we shall take up questions to be put to the Hon. Minister for Law next."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" On a point of order, Sir. According to rule 34 of the Assembly Rules, starred questions entered in the lists of questions for a day shall be called, if the time made available for questions permits, in the order in which they stand in the list.

" Therefore, Sir, it is the inherent right of this House to take up questions in the order in which they stand in the list. I do not know under what rule the change is made."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The House itself has got powers to change the rules. The House can even say that these rules be suspended for two days. I sent a circular to hon. Members yesterday that questions to be put to the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture would be taken up first. The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture who is also the Leader of the other House wants to go early to attend the meeting of the other House. The House has got powers to decide even now that the Madras Dramatic Performances Bill be taken up for consideration straightway."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The first hour of every sitting shall be available for the asking and answering of questions unless the House unanimously resolves otherwise. Therefore, Sir, it is not as if we can take up the Madras Dramatic Performances Bill even now."

MR. SPEAKER :—" That is what I said. The House is the final authority. If the House decides that the questions to be put to the Hon. the Minister for Law be taken up first, I have no objection. The only thing to be considered is that the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture wants to attend the other House which is also meeting and it is for that purpose I stated that questions to be put to him may be taken up first."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The other House meets only at 11 a.m. Changes in the list of questions should not be made every time. When we frame rules, we should also see that they are respected."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have already stated that the House is the final authority in these matters."